

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 08959 031707Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 SAA-01 SES-02 /089 W
-----077752 040913Z /21

R 031704Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5613
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 08959

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, SS, SP
SUBJECT: A SPANISH ROLE IN THE SAHARA DISPUTE

REF: STATE 195571

1. POLITICAL COUNSELOR SAW LOPEZ AGUIRREBENGOA AFTERNOON
AUGUST 3 AND CONVEYED FIVE POINTS IN PARA 1 REFTEL TO
HIM.

2. IN RESPONSE LOPEZ EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR OUR OFFER
AND SAID SPANISH WOULD KEEP IT VERY MUCH IN MIND.
HOWEVER, MADRID WAS NOW IN THE BACKGROUND AND PARIS WAS
THE PROTAGONIST IN SEARCHING FOR A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION.

3. QUESTION IS PROBABLY EVEN MORE SENSITIVE FOR MADRID
THAN FOR PARIS, LOPEZ SAID, BECAUSE OF INTERNAL POLITICAL
PROBLEMS. DURING MEETING WITH OPPOSITION FOREIGN POLICY
SPOKESMEN AUGUST 2 (SEPTEL) IT BECAME CLEAR THAT
OPPOSITION ELEMENTS WOULD SUPPORT ANY EFFORT MADE BY GOS
TO ASSIST IN FINDING A SETTLEMENT, LOPEZ SAID. HOWEVER,
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GOS WAS NOT THE IDEAL MEDIATOR BECAUSE IT COULD NOT
PROPOSE OR STRONGLY ADVOCATE ANY SOLUTION THAT MIGHT
PROVE OFFENSIVE TO THE MOROCCANS.

4. WHEN ASKED WHETHER SPANISH HAVE INFORMATION ON CURRENT
MOROCCAN ATTITUDE TOWARD POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
SAHARAN ENTITY IN THE MAURITANIAN OCCUPIED SAHARA,

LOPEZ REPLIED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO DIRECT CONTACTS WITH THE MOROCCANS ON THIS. DIRECT CONTACT WILL TAKE PLACE, HE SAID, PROBABLY IN SEPTEMBER. WHEN PRESSED, HE SAID HE COULD GIVE NO MORE INFORMATION AT THIS TIME. (COMMENT: OUR GUESS WOULD BE THAT LOPEZ MAY HAVE BEEN REFERRING HERE TO A POSSIBLE VISIT BY KING JUAN CARLOS TO MOROCCO IN SEPTEMBER. TODMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MADRID08959
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780320-1042
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197808103/aaaadifs.tel
Line Count: 69
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 59150358-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 195571
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1549087
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: A SPANISH ROLE IN THE SAHARA DISPUTE
TAGS: PEPR, SS, SP, (AGUIRREBENGOA, LOPEZ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/59150358-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014